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LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach the text of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, concerning allegations by the Angolan Government of South African involvement in Angola.

I should be grateful if the letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 29 January 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

In my letter of 27 January 1993 to you, I pointed out that the Angolan Minister of Defence alleged on 22 January 1993 that a South African Hercules C-130 aircraft carrying provisions for UNITA and ostensibly "flying out of Jamba", had been shot down in Angola by Angolan Government forces. The South African Government stated on 23 January 1993 that no South African aircraft had been involved and the Angolan Government was urgently requested to furnish the registration number of the aircraft and other details. To date no response had been forthcoming, although the allegation persists.

The South African Government has now received information that a Hercules C-130 aircraft, bearing the markings ENDIAMA and with Angolan registration D2EHD, was fired upon and hit by a RPG-7 rocket on 22 January 1993 (the date the Angolan Government alleged the incident took place) on take-off from Luena in the Moxiko province of Angola. The pilot apparently was able to carry out an emergency landing and there were no casualties. You will be aware that ENDIAMA is an Angolan organization involved in diamond mining activity in that country.

I have irrefutable evidence in my possession that the aircraft was in fact carrying provisions for Angolan Government troops. The facts are therefore as follows:

- The aircraft was an Angolan aircraft;
- It carried provisions for Angolan Government forces;
- It was shot at but not shot down;
- The Angolan Government itself claimed that its troops brought down the aircraft.

Unsubstantiated claims of this nature clearly do not contribute to the creation of a climate of confidence within which a solution to the tragic events in Angola can be found. As I indicated to you in my letter of 27 January 1993, my Government is committed to supporting international efforts which are currently under way to bring peace to Angola.

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA